

Forum on Transportation Investment
Breakout Sessions
January 4, 2005

Breakout Summary

Tom Warne: Thanks to each group for your interesting reports. The information that you generated is well worth gathering. I noted several repeating themes.

- Overall, your groups agreed that transportation funding is falling behind, with some views being that funding is less than is needed for maintaining our system and critically below levels to address capital improvements. The Forum will continue to investigate the subject of future funding options – especially at the June meeting.
- Another item for further investigation is ‘wants’ versus ‘needs’ for Idaho’s transportation infrastructure. Forum members recognized that we need to investigate, discuss and understand what future demands will be made of Idaho’s transportation system; especially ways to maintain our system and make capital improvements. The April Forum meeting will focus on ‘wants’ versus ‘needs’ to begin to address this item.
- Approximately 10-15 revenue stream suggestions were made and this information warrants further review. Tax changes to allow taxes of all fuels and raising fuel taxes to keep pace with inflation are very viable points.
- Public transportation questions continue to be difficult to agree upon. The definition of urban transit and rural transit and the accompanying needs seem to suggest a need for separation. Funding, organization, and services are very different.
- Finally, the ‘parking lot’ suggestions/questions, etc., will be further reviewed and incorporated whenever possible.

All of the ‘breakout session’ information will be transcribed and become part of this meeting’s minutes which will be posted to the ITD website as soon as available.

I thank you again for your participation. These breakout sessions and the subsequent reports are very beneficial in the development of the Forum’s opinions and recommendations that will be presented to the Idaho Transportation Board in November. If there is no objection these sessions will continue at our other meetings to allow further exchange of information.